

ALLIES DRIVE IN STRONG WEDGE AND MAY FORCE A BIG RETREAT

Americans Started New Blow in Serignes-et-Nesles Region, Advancing Two Miles or More in Face of Desperate Resistance and Are Holding It

FRENCH SMASHED FOUR ATTACKS EAST OF OULCHY-LE-CHATEAU

All Chance of Germans Making Stand North of the Ourcq River Seems to be Gone and Retirement to the Vesle Now Appears Certain

(By The Associated Press.)

In spite of the tremendous efforts put forth by the Germans to check the relentless pressure of the allies north of the Ourcq river, to-day finds the German positions there in grave danger. French, British and American troops, fighting their way forward to the east of Fere-en-Tardenois, have driven a wedge into the enemy's line and seem to be in a position to compel a hurried retreat from Roncheres and St. Gemme, at the extreme bottom of the salient between Soissons and Rheims.

The allied line to-day runs south from Soissons to Grand Rozoy and then it begins to turn to the east. It passes just north of Fere-en-Tardenois and continues to the apex of the wedge at the village of Nesles, where it turns sharply south toward Roncheres. The allies' advance in this region seems to have placed them in a dominating position.

All around the salient there has been a continued battle during the past two days, with the Germans launching repeated counter-attacks against the allied lines. They have all failed, and the allies have gained important ground at vital points.

Immediately south of Soissons and west of Rheims, the German lines are strongly held, but enemy efforts to improve his position in the latter region have broken down.

There now seems to be little doubt that the Germans will retire to the Vesle river as soon as possible, any possibility of making a stand north of the Ourcq seemingly being gone.

KEY TO OURCQ VALLEY IS IN ALLIES' HANDS

Franco-Americans Control the Railroad in That Vicinity—French Guns Command Important Avenue of German Retreat.

London, July 30.—Although the allied gains during the past 24 hours may seem small, some of them had been exceedingly significant, telegraphs Reuters correspondent at the American front in France. The chief feature of the recent fighting, he says, is the French advance from Oulchy-le-Chateau, which carried the villages of Grand Rozoy and Cugny, and swept the Germans off the Butte de Chalmont. This hill was a center of enemy resistance along the western side of the salient.

German guns situated on the Butte de Chalmont had been able to take the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road almost as far as Villettemontoire and hurl a cross-fire upon the advancing French and American troops in the valley of the Ourcq. The French now are able to harass from this hill the enemy's retirement and should be able to clear the angle between the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road and the railroad between Oulchy-le-Chateau and Chateau Thierry. The French, eau and Fimes and bring much needed assistance to the Americans in the village of Serignes.

It will be a costly task to take the Nesles forest, but there are alternatives possible to the eastward. The railroad, which is the key to the Ourcq valley, is in allied hands.

AMERICANS BEAT OFF THE GERMANS

And Improved Their Own Positions on the Line of the Ourcq, General Pershing Reports.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Repulse of enemy counter-attacks on the line of the Ourcq after severe fighting and improvement of the American positions there were reported in General Pershing's communiqué for yesterday, received to-day at the war department.

BRITISH LOSSES IN JULY WERE LESS THAN HALF JUNE

Total from All Fronts Was 67,291, of Which 521 Officers and 8,474 Men Were Killed in Action.

London, July 31.—British casualties reported during July totalled 67,291. This compares with total casualties reported in June of 141,147. The losses for July are divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds: Officers, 521; men, 8,474. Wounded or missing: Officers, 1,537; men, 56,789.

aciously and used their machine guns murderously.

Neither side used artillery in this particular battle. There was hand-to-hand fighting in the street, in which Americans proved the masters, driving the enemy before them.

The story of the fight for the possession of Meurey farm, lying directly south of Serignes, will long be remembered in the history of the division. The Germans on their withdrawal left behind a strong force of machine guns. The Americans moved forward through the yellow wheat fields, which were sprayed and torn by bullets. But they advanced as though on a drill ground.

The American guns laid down a heavy artillery fire, but notwithstanding this, many of the Germans remained when it came to hand-to-hand fighting. In a group of farm buildings the enemy had set up a strong defense. Here the Germans stuck to their guns, and the Americans rushed them and killed the gunners. It was a little battle without mercy and typical of similar engagements occurring along the whole line. The Prussian Guards and Bavarians everywhere fought in accordance with their training, discipline and traditions, but were outwitted and outfought.

To the north of the farm, up the long slopes leading to the woods, the Americans encountered the fiercest exhibition of Germany's war science. The Germans laid down a barrage which it is said was as heavy as had ever been employed. The American guns replied heavily.

The order for the advance came, and the line moved forward across the grain fields directly through the barrage. On a nearby hillside the chief staff officers watched the operation. They saw shells fall, in some cases leaving long gaps in the line, but the troops never halted.

On through the barrage the Americans went into the German positions, attacking fiercely the machine gun and infantry detachments. The barrage died away, the Germans leaving the work of rescue to the men they had failed to protect with their heavy guns.

The Germans were "mopped up" and the Americans held their new line just east of the forest. Not many prisoners were taken, but here and there a few were rounded up and brought in. Sgt. Louis Loez of Sioux City contributed 14. He attacked 18 Germans who had become separated from their command, killing four of them and capturing the others.

Awful execution was done by the Americans. Eight captured guards said they were all that remained of a company of 80. Yesterday their number had been reduced to 30 and a lieutenant. To-day the lieutenant and all but they were killed.

EX-CZAR SHOT WHEN PROPPED AGAINST POST

Given Two Hours to Prepare for the End, Nicholas Romanoff Received News Calmly and Then Collapsed in His Room.

Amsterdam, July 31.—Given two hours in which to prepare for the end, Nicholas Romanoff, former Russian emperor, was taken out by his executioners in a state of such collapse that it was necessary to prop him against a post, says the Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin, which claims to have received from a high Russian personage an account of the emperor's last hours.

Nicholas was awakened at 5 a. m. on the day of his execution by a patrol of a non-commissioned officer and six men. He was told to dress and then was taken to a room where the decision of the soviet council was communicated to him. He was informed the execution would be carried out in two hours.

The former emperor, it is added, received the announcement of the sentence of death with great calmness, then he turned to his bedroom and collapsed in a chair. After a few minutes he asked for a priest with whom he was allowed to remain unattended. Subsequently he wrote several letters.

When the escort arrived to take him to the place of execution, Nicholas attempted to rise from his chair but was unable. The priest and a soldier were obliged to assist him to stand. The condemned man descended the stairs with difficulty and once he fell down.

As he was unable to stand without support when the place of the execution was reached, he was propped against a post. He raised his hands and seemed to be trying to speak, but the rifles spoke and he fell dead.

GERMANS REFUSE TO GIVE BATTLE

Although Their Artillery Is Bombarding Merris, Which Was Captured Yesterday By British Troops.

London, July 31.—The German artillery displayed considerable activity last night in the region of Merris, on the Flanders front, taken yesterday by the Australians and in the Kemmel sector, the war office announced to-day. It also was active on both sides of the Somme. Prisoners were taken in raids and patrol encounters in the Lens region and North of Bethune.

ACKNOWLEDGE DEFEAT BUT PROMISE VICTORY

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Official despatches to-day from France state the German high command has caused to be published throughout Germany an official statement preparing the people to accept the defeat in the second battle of the Marne, but renewing the promise of a decisive blow against the Anglo-French front.

ENLIST OR LEAVE BEFORE SEPT. 29

British Government Gives Notice to Americans Under Draft Treaty

WILL BE DRAFTED AFTER THAT DATE

No Right of Appeal but Are Subject to Exemption

London, July 31.—In pursuance of the British-American convention for drafting Americans of military age resident in the United Kingdom, notice has been given American citizens desiring to return to the United States for service that they must make their own arrangements to leave before September 29. If they fail to leave by that time they become liable to service in the British army without right of appeal. An American may enlist in the American forces by applying to a British recruiting office.

CALL ON 23 STATES FOR 5,586 MEN

They Must Be Men Qualified for General Military Service and They Will Go Into Special Training at Colleges.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Provost Marshal General Crowder to-day called on 23 states for 5,586 grammar school graduates of draft age qualified for general military service to take courses of training at colleges over the country. The men may volunteer until Aug. 6, and after that time any deficiency will be made up. They are ordered to enter Aug. 15.

State quotas include: Delaware, 50; Bliss electrical school, Washington, D. C.

Maryland, 200; Georgia School of Technology. New Jersey, 206; Penn State college, Pennsylvania, 412; Lafayette college, Rhode Island, 156; Bliss electrical school.

JAPANESE STEAMER IN BAD POSITION

There Is Hard Work Ahead to Save the Ship—Passengers Have Been Taken Off, But Crew Remains.

A Pacific Port, July 31.—Surrounded by rocks, her two foreholds filled with water and the fore part of her deck almost level with the sea, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamer Canada Maru, which went aground yesterday, this morning presented a difficult task for the salvage steamer that are standing by, according to wireless messages received here.

One hundred and seventy-six passengers and many parcels of mail were taken aboard the steamer Galiano last night to be landed at Neah bay, but the crew remained aboard the Canada Maru, as the weather in the vicinity of the wreck was moderate and Captain Yamamoto, in command of the stranded vessel, believed there was no danger of the boat going to pieces.

The Canada Maru, 3,548 tons net, was returning from Yokohama and Kobe with a cargo estimated to be worth \$4,000,000.

ALLIED DIPLOMATS LEAVE VOLOGDA

American Ambassador Francis Departed from the Russian City July 23—This Movement Was Made on Invitation of Bolshevik Government, It Is Thought.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Reports have reached the state department in a roundabout way that Ambassador Francis and all the allied diplomats left Vologda July 23. It is understood that they were given some sort of choice as to their destination, but on this point the information reaching Washington is so vague the department could not make a definite statement.

It is assumed, however, the only way left to the diplomatic representatives was by way of Archangel with the alternative of going to Moscow. The hasty departure of the diplomats is attributed to probable notice that the Bolsheviks intended to cut the line to Archangel after July 23.

NO RACIAL OPPRESSION.

Decrees Soviet Government at Moscow in Orders.

London, July 31.—The soviet government at Moscow has issued a decree against anti-semitism, a Russian wireless message to-day announced. There is no place in the Russian scheme for the oppression of nationalities, the decree declares. The decree invites the working classes to fight against such oppressions.

WAGE INCREASE FOR 500,000 MEN

And Railroad Shopmen Were Told to Increase Their Energy

STRIKES MUST BE ELIMINATED

Director-General McAdoo Made Announcement To-day

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Railway employees were told to-day by Director General McAdoo in announcing details of the wage increase for more than 500,000 shopmen that the nation expected new energy from the workers in return for pay increases and improvements in employment conditions and that strikes and other labor disputes must be eliminated during the war.

Under the new wages, the experienced shopmen are to receive a minimum of 68 cents an hour, carmen and second-class electrical workers 58 cents an hour, with rates ranging from 48½ to 54½ cents for carmen and second-class electrical workers with less than four years' experience, the amount depending on their length of service in the particular shop. Eight hours is to be considered a day's work, and time and a half is to be paid for overtime, effective as of Jan. 1.

Piece workers are to receive not less than the minimum allowed hourly workers. Apprentices' pay is to range from 25 and 32½ cents an hour and helpers will get 45 cents an hour. Half of the apprentices may be considered helpers, it is specified. Gang foremen in locomotive and car departments may receive five cents an hour more than others of their respective crafts, and supervisors are to get \$40 a month more than the previous rate, with a minimum of \$135 and maximum of \$250 a month.

The order affects machinists, boiler-makers, blacksmiths, sheet metal workers, electrical workers, carmen and molders.

ASKED TO SETTLE LYNN, MASS., STRIKE

War Labor Board Was Asked By Secretary Wilson To-day to Take a Hand in the Trouble.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—The war labor board was asked to-day by Secretary Wilson to undertake settlement of the strike of fourteen thousand employees at the General Electric company's plant at Lynn, Mass.

Alleged discrimination against union employees and refusal of the company to submit the issue to the labor board were said to be involved.

The board now has under consideration the controversy between the company and its employees at Schenectady, N. Y., and Pittsfield, Mass.

RAINBOW DIVISION ENTERS THE BATTLE

Participated in the Fighting East of Fere-en-Tardenois, Gen. March Reports—Object of Opposing Forces, He Says, Is to Kill as Many as Possible.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—The sole object of the allies and the Germans in the Soisson-Rheims salient now is to kill as many men as possible, General March, chief of staff, said to-day at his semi-weekly conference with newspaper correspondents. Whatever objective either side had at the beginning, the general said, has been submerged by developments in the fighting.

General March pointed out that the salient has been greatly flattened, thus virtually dissipating any hope of the allies bagging large numbers of the enemy. The German withdrawal since last Saturday, he added, had reduced the length of the line another ten miles to 54 miles. The maximum German retreat in the center, is 14 miles.

Arrivals of the 43d (Rainbow) division, and its participation in the fighting east of Fere-en-Tardenois, was announced. The third regular division also was identified as in action at Serigny and Clerges, where the crack German guard divisions have been defeated in recent fighting by American troops.

General March announced the formation in the United States of six more divisions, numbered from 15 to 20 and to be located at Camps Logan, Tex., Kearney, Cal., Beauregard, La., Travis, Tex., Dodge, Ia., and Sevier, S. C. As in the case of the six divisions announced last week those will be built around two regular infantry regiments in each case.

General March announced also the conversion of fifteen national army cavalry regiments, numbered from 310 to 315, into field artillery. These will comprise parts of the artillery units for the new divisions.

General March had nothing to reveal as to the extent of the casualties sustained by the American forces in the recent fighting. He said, however, that General Pershing had been ordered to cable the casualties as received and that these would be given out here at once. He added that there would be no distribution of casualties over a long period hereafter.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER COMOLLI RESIGNS

Because of Pressure of Private Business—Resignation Was Accepted By the City Council Last Evening.

Joseph Comolli of Foster street offered his resignation from the school commission at the regular meeting of the city council last evening and it was accepted. No statement accompanied the resignation, but it is understood that Mr. Comolli, who has served for several years as the ward 5 commissioner, desires to devote more of his time to his own affairs. Recently he accepted a responsible position with the firm of Barclay Bros., and in a recent conversation with the mayor, after intimating that he was about to resign, said that his duties would require a very large share of his time. When the school commission reorganized at the beginning of the new school year in July, Mr. Comolli refused a re-election as chairman, although urged to continue to serve in that capacity.

The motion to accept his resignation was made by Alderman Loranger and accepted without dissent. The mayor has not appointed anyone to fill out Mr. Comolli's unexpired term, which continues till July 1, 1919.

The council was variously occupied with routine business until 8 o'clock, when adjournment was followed by a committee of the whole meeting on Warren street, where the Collins property, long the subject of litigation, was under consideration. Alderman Alexander's motion opening the way for adjournment on Warren street followed a message from City Atty. Wishart in which he stated that E. H. Deavitt, attorney for one of the plaintiffs in the case of Collins and the Capital Savings bank vs. City of Barre, had suggested a compromise settlement of \$13,000. It was further explained, for the benefit of newcomers on the board who are not familiar with a piece of litigation that has been pending for years, that the supreme court has already ruled that the street committee of some years ago erred in not giving abutters on Warren street legal notice of their intention to change the grade. The property concerned lies in a hollow near the Merchant street corner, a hollow which became much more of a hollow when the grade was raised.

A communication from Joseph G. Brown of Montpelier, representing the Vermont committee of public safety, explained the details of the new federal employment bureau which opens Aug. 1. It was read by the clerk. A letter from the Fidelity & Casualty Co. of New York reported recent inspections of the city boilers. The steam roller boiler is in good condition, but a front crank and flues in the city hall boilers need to be replaced. The recommendations of the inspector were referred to the property committee with instructions to make the needed repairs at once.

Various committees made up for lost time by reporting on minor requests and complaints. The results: Fire committee, Mrs. C. J. Bolster may shingle a small shed near her North Main street residence, since all other buildings on the same premises are shingled; street

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BELGIAN AIRMEN GROWING ACTIVE

Six German Balloons Were Destroyed During the Week and Other Operations South of the Year Were Reported.

Washington, D. C., July 31.—Activity on the Belgian front south of the Year and the destruction of six balloons by Sub-Lieutenant Coppens were reported in the weekly review of Belgian operations received to-day by the Belgian legation here.

FORE RIVER MEN RETURN TO WORK

Cranemen There and at Squantum Had Been Out Since Yesterday, When They Struck.

Quincy, Mass., July 31.—One hundred and twenty cranemen at the Fore River and Squantum plants of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation, who struck yesterday, returned to work to-day.

CHANGES PRISONS.

Frank Shaw Sent from Windsor to Rutland Unattended.

Windsor, July 31.—Frank Shaw, a life term at the Vermont state prison, was recently given a permit by Gov. Graham to go to Rutland unaccompanied by guard, where he will work at the reformatory as a free man, although still under the jurisdiction of the prison officials.

The wages that Shaw will earn will be his own. He has been in confinement at the prison since 1901, having been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a sheriff named Hoffman.

NO OFFER OF PEACE FROM THE ENEMY

British Foreign Secretary Balfour Makes Statement That the Entente Governments Had Not Been Approached.

London, July 31.—Speaking in the House of Commons to-day, Arthur J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, said no enemy government had approached the entente allies regarding negotiations for peace.

BRITISH PRISONER BAG.

Was Increased By 14,500 Since March 21.

London, July 31.—Since March 21 of this year the British have taken 14,500 prisoners on the western front, James Ian Macpherson, parliamentary secretary to the war office, informed the House of Commons to-day.

MOTORISTS TORN AND CRUSHED

Two Killed and Four Injured When Struck by Central Vermont Train

AT GRADE CROSSING IN WEST BERLIN

Percy Brown of Northfield Falls and Peter Gochie of Sheffield Are Dead

Two out of an automobile party of six, who were struck by a Central Vermont passenger train at Riverton (West Berlin) late yesterday afternoon died shortly afterwards and the other four are in Heaton hospital in Montpelier in critical condition.

The Dead.
PERCY BROWN, Northfield Falls.
PETER GOCHIE, Sheffield.

The Injured.
MRS. PERCY BROWN.
MRS. PETER GOCHIE.
CARROLL GOCHIE, son of the last-named.
WILLIAM DOUGLASS, nephew of the Browns.

Mr. Gochie died just before the relief train reached Montpelier and Mr. Brown died at the hospital early last evening of a broken neck.

The party were going to Northfield Falls from Sheffield, where Mr. and Mrs. Brown and their nephew had been visiting the Gochie family. They were with a few miles of their home when overtaken by death. Mr. Brown was driving the car.

The approach to the crossing near the Riverton station is blind, and apparently Mr. Brown did not see the train until he was almost upon the crossing. It was too late to stop his car, but he endeavored to turn the vehicle to run in the direction with the train, as was shown by the marks of the automobile's wheels. The intervening space was too short, however, and the train struck the machine a smashing blow and carried it about 75 feet before it was hurled aside. Both the men were thrown onto the pilot of the engine and there they lay when the train was stopped, they having been carried over one bridge.

Engineer Allard threw on the emergency brakes and stopped his train almost in the train's length. So violent was the stop that passengers were thrown out of their seats. Considering the fact that there were seven cars in the train it is considered that the engineer made a remarkably quick stop. The passengers, not knowing just what had happened, alighted from the train and soon saw the evidences of the accident. One woman and a child lay on one side of the track and the other woman and the second child on the opposite side, while, as already stated, the men were on the front of the locomotive.

Joseph Cassi of Concord, N. H., was one of the first passengers off the train, and he ran and picked up the smaller of the children. Bert Darling, a commercial traveler, was waiting on the West Berlin side of the crossing for the train to pass, and he was among the first to help in caring for the injured. There were no physicians on the train and an effort was made to get some from Northfield. The wait was so long, however, that it was decided to place the injured on the train and carry them to Montpelier. They were placed in the baggage coach and the run was made as fast as possible. Transfer was made at Montpelier Junction to the branch train and at Montpelier three ambulances were waiting.

Just as the train was pulling into the Montpelier station Mr. Gochie passed away. Dr. C. H. Burr, the railroad physician, was in charge of the medical staff hastily summoned, and the victims of the accident were hurried to the hospital. Mr. Brown died before he could be taken into the operating room. The other four were given immediate attention. It was not possible at first to determine the extent of their injuries, although it was found that William Douglas, aged seven, had suffered the fracture of his right collar bone. Carroll Gochie, young son of the Sheffield people, had his jaw broken. All of the four were badly cut and bruised, and it was feared that they had sustained internal injuries. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gochie were particularly cut about the face.

The condition of the four had not materially changed this forenoon, and at noon but little hopes were held out for any of them, excepting the little Douglas boy.

It appears from what Mrs. Gochie stated to her father-in-law last night that the automobile was stopped and that they did not hear any train approaching; but the view towards the track was hidden by bushes that they had been backing up to being hit by an engine backing up and pushing a caboose ahead of it. H. M. Farnham had a narrow escape there a few days since. A powerful car was all that saved him. It was reported last evening that four accidents

Other Accidents on This Crossing.

This is the same crossing upon which members of J. M. Boutwell's family narrowly escaped injury a week ago. Fred Fearing was driving the machine. He stopped his car and listened, but heard no approaching train. He stated this morning that the track is hidden from view by the bushes mentioned by Mrs. Gochie. He turned his car to the right and just escaped being hit by an engine backing up and pushing a caboose ahead of it. H. M. Farnham had a narrow escape there a few days since. A powerful car was all that saved him. It was reported last evening that four accidents

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